

WOMT Summary for 4/8/2008:

The Smelt Working Group continued its recommendation that the Projects maintain a 7-day average Old & Middle River flow more positive than -2,000 cfs for the coming week (4/9-4/15).

In light of zero adult delta smelt salvage and no larval delta smelt detection at either facility over the past week, the USFWS determined that a -2,500 cfs OMR target, subject to certain conditions, would adequately protect delta smelt. The projects may continue operating to a -2,500 cfs target under the following conditions: (1) increases in total project pumping would be limited to no more than 1,000 cfs on any given day, and (2) the target OMR flow would revert to -2,000 cfs if (a) combined adult delta smelt salvage were to exceed 24 over the next seven days, or (b) larval delta smelt were to be detected at either facility on any two days. USFWS determined that if the more restrictive OMR target is triggered, returning to the -2,000 cfs target would minimize the risk to adult delta smelt in the central Delta from being transported into the south Delta or becoming entrained at the export facilities.

Longfin smelt larvae were detected at the CVP on April 1, 3, and 5, triggering the more protective 7-day average Old & Middle River flow target of -2,000 cfs, which was to be met seven days after the triggering event, or 4/12. However, the 7-day OMR flow at the time of the last detection was on a downward trend and already less than -2,000 cfs. Combined pumping was trending up and the daily OMR was becoming more negative. Pumping was adjusted on 4/5 - 4/7. DFG noted today that the results of last week's 20-mm survey suggest favorable longfin distribution (most were found at western and northern stations, with only a few at southern or eastern stations). Therefore, DFG found that the -2,500 cfs OMR target, as conditioned below, would adequately protect longfin smelt. Increases in total project pumping would be limited to no more than 1,000 cfs on any given day, and the target OMR flow would revert to -2,000 cfs if (a) combined adult longfin smelt salvage were to exceed 24 over the next seven days, or (b) larval longfin smelt were to be detected at either facility on any two days. DFG noted that 10-20% of the longfin population may still be spawning, so they intend to watch the salvage numbers closely.

The count for the adult salvage and larval detection for both species will begin again on Wednesday, April 9th.